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THE HISTORY

OF

GEORGE A GREEN;

Pindar

OF

THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD.

LONDON:

WILLIAM PICKERING, CHANCERY LANE.

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GEORGE A GREEN.

THOUGH the fame of George A Green, be not so widely extended, nor his positive existence so clearly ascertained as that of his more exalted contemporary Robin Hood, the History of the Pindar of Wakefield, cannot fail to be considered as an appropriate addition to that of the hero of Sherwood; and when we examine the characters of the heroes and the incidents of their respective stories; we shall easily account for the more extended renown of England's Merry Outlaw, by supposing the imaginative and poetical character with which his life passed in the green wood, has been clothed, and the feeling of universal benevolence with which his actions were tinctured, to have been more attractive to the people generally, than the simple valour and readiness of invention of the Pound Keeper of Wakefield. While therefore it is observed of Robin Hood, that "his story and exploits have been made the subject as well of various dramatic exhibitions, as of innumerable poems, rimes, songs, and ballads," the enumeration of the various productions of which the Pindar is the subject, is a task which may easily be performed.

A ballad “of Wakefield and a Green,” was printed by the widow of Robert Toy or Toye, who died in 1556, but whether the same with the following which is printed in Ritson’s Robin Hood, vol. 2. p. 16, cannot be ascertained.

THE JOLLY PINDAR OF WAKEFIELD,
WITH
ROBIN HOOD, SCARLET, AND JOHN.

FROM an old black letter copy in A. à Wood’s collection, compared with two other copies in the British Museum, one in black letter. It should be sung “to an excellent tune,” which has not been recovered.

Several lines of this ballad are quoted in the two old plays of the “Downfall” and “Death of Robert earl of Huntington.” 1601, 4to. b. 1. but acted many years before. It is also alluded to in Shakspeare’s Merry Wives of Windsor, Act. 1. sc. 1. and again in his second part of King Henry IV. Act 5. scene 3.

In Wakefield there lives a jolly pinder,
In Wakefield all on a green
In Wakefield all on a green ;
There is neither knight nor squire, said the pinder,
Nor baron that is so bold,
Nor baron that is so bold,
Dare make a trespass to the town of Wakefield,
But his pledge goes to the pinfold, &c.

All this be heard three witty young men,
Twas Robin Hood, Scarlet, and John ;
With that they espy'd the jolly pindèr
As he sat under a thorn.

Now turn again, turn again, said the pinder,
For a wrong way have you gone,
For you have forsaken the kings highway,
And made a path over the corn.

O that were a shame, said jolly Robin,
We being three and thou but one.
The pinder leapt back then thirty good foot,
Twas thirty good foot and one.

He leaned his back fast unto a thorn,
And his foot against a stone,
And there he fought a long summers day,
A summers day so long,
Till that their swords on their broad bucklèrs,
Were broke fast into their hands.

Hold thy hand, hold thy hand said bold Robin Hood,
And my merry men every one ;
For this is one of the best pindèrs,
That ever I tryed with sword.

And wilt thou forsake thy pinders craft,
And live in the green-wood with me.
“ At Michaelmas next my cov'nant comes out,
When every man gathers his fee ;

Then I'le take my blew blade all in my hand,
 And plod to the grenwood with thee.”
 Hast thou either meat or drinke, said Robin Hood,
 For my merry men and me.

I have both bread and beef said the pindèr,
 And good ale of the best.
 And that is meat good enough, said Robin Hood,
 For such unbidden ‘ guests.’

“ O wilt thou forsake the pinder his craft,
 And go to the greenwood with me ?
 Thou shalt have a livery twice in the year,
 The one green the other brown.”

“ If Michaelmas day was come and gone,
 And my master had paid me my fee,
 Then would I set as little by him
 As my master doth by me.”

This it will be perceived is the incident described in the tenth chapter of the present work, and for the valour displayed by the Pinder, upon this and all similar occasions, his name has passed into a proverb, and “ as good as George A Green,” is a saying in use even at the present time.

A Play entitled “ George A Green” was played on the 28th of Dec. 1593, by the Lord Strange’s company, and the “ Pinner of Wakefield,” which

seems to be a different play on the 8th January, 1593-4.

“ A pleasant conceyted comedie of George A
“ Greene, the Pinner of Wakefield. As it was sundry
“ times acted by the servants of the Right Honour-
“ able the Earl of Sussex, Imprinted at London by
“ Simon Stafford, for Cuthbert Benby: and are to
“ be sold at his Shop neare the Royall Exchange,
“ 1599.” 4to. which is reprinted in the third volume of
the new edition of Dodsley’s Old Plays, nearly resem-
bles in its incidents the present tale, but the variations
which take place in it, may most probably be attributed
to the fancy of the author whoever he was, rather than
to his having followed any different version of the story.

The Editor would have been very glad to have pro-
cured a copy of the “ Pinder of Wakefield, being
the History of George A Greene, the lusty Pinder
of the north, briefly shewing his manhood, and
his brave merriment amongst his boon companions :
full of pretty histories, songs, catches, jests, and
riddles,” 4to. bl. letter, 1632. which sold at the sale of
Sir Robert Gordon’s Library for 6*l.* 1*s.* but after
many fruitless attempts he felt obliged to relinquish
the hope of doing so, and to print the present tale,
which though dated at a much later period would
seem by its style to be of considerable antiquity.

A few quotations, which may serve to show the estimation in which our hero was held by the writers, will appropriately terminate this introduction.

Drayton describing the progress of the river Calder, in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, has the following lines :

“ It chanced she in her course on “ Kirkley” cast her eye,
Where merry Robin Hood, that honest thief doth lie ;
Beholding fitly too before how Wakefield stood,
She doth not only think of lusty Robin Hood,
But of his merry man, the pindar of the town
Of Wakefield, George A Green, whose fames so far are blown,
For their so valiant fight, that every freeman’s song
Can tell you of the same, quoth she, be talk’d on long
For ye were merry lads, and those were merry days.”

And Richard Brathwaite, in his *Strappado* for the Divell, 1615. 8vo. p. 203 says :

But haste my muse, in colours to display
Some auncient customes in their high-roade way,

* * * * *

At least such places labour to make known,
As former times have honour’d with renown.
So by thy true relation ’t may appear
They are no others now, than as they were
Ever esteemed by auncient times records,
Which shall be shadowed briefly in few words.

The first whereof that I intend to show,
Is merry Wakefield and her Pindar too :
Which fame hath blaz'd with all that did belong,
Unto that towne in many gladsome song :
The Pindar's valour and how firm he stood.
In th' townes defence 'gainst the rebell Robin Hood,
How stoutly he behav'd himselfe and woulde
In spite of Robin bring his horse to th' fold ;
His many Maygames which were to be seene,
Yeerely presented upon Wakefield greene,
Where lovely Jugge and lusty Tib would go,
To see Tom Lively turne upon the toe ;
Hob, Lob, and Crowde the fiddler would be there,
And many more I will not speake of here :
Good God, how glad hath been this hart of mine
To see that towne which hath in former time
So flourish'd and so gloried in her name,
Famous by the Pindar who first raised the same ;
Yea, I have paced ore that greene and ore
And th' more I saw 't I tooke delight the more,
For where we take contentment in a place
A whole daies walke seems as a cinquepace.

* * * * *

Unto thy taske my muse and now make knowne,
The jolly shoo-maker of Bradford towne,
His gentle craft so raised in former time.
By princely journey-men his discipline,
Where he was wont with passengers to quaffe
But suffer none to carry up their staffe

Upon their shoulders, whilst they past through town,
 For if they did, he soon would beat them downe.
 So valiant was the souter and from hence,
 Twixt Robin Hood and him grew th' difference ;
 Which, cause it is by most stage poets writ,
 For brevity, I thought good to omit."

Our gallant Pindar, is thus facetiously comme-
 morated by Drunken Barnaby.

“ Hinc diverso curso, sero
 Quod audissem de pindero
 Wakefeeldensi ; gloria mundi
 Ubi socii sunt jucundi,
 Mecum statui peragrade
 Georgii fustem visitare.”

“ Turning thence none could me hinder
 To salute the Wakefield pindar ;
 Who indeed is the world's glory,
 With his comrades never sorry,
 This was the cause, lest you should miss it,
 George's club I mean to visit.”

“ Veni Wakefield peramænum,
 Ubi querens Georgium Greenum,
 Non inveni, sed in lignum
 Fixum reperi Georgii signum,
 Ubi allam bibi feram
 Donec Georgio fortior eram.”

" Straight at Wakefield I was seen a
Where I sought for George A Green a ;
But could not find such a creature,
Yet on a sign I saw his feature,
Where strength of ale had so much stirr'd me,
That I grew stouter far than Jordie."

THE HISTORY
OF
GEORGE A GREEN,
PINDAR OF THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD.

HIS BIRTH, CALLING, VALOUR, AND REPUTATION
IN THE COUNTRY.

WITH

DIVERS PLEASANT, AS WELL AS SERIOUS PASSAGES IN THE COURSE OF
HIS LIFE AND FORTUNE.

— — — Famam extendere Factis :
Hic Virtutis Opus. — — —
Virg. Lib. Æneid. 10.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR SAMUEL BALLARD, AT THE BLUE-BALL,
IN LITTLE BRITAIN. 1706.

TO THE STEWARD,
AND OTHER THE
GENTLEMEN AND INHABITANTS
IN THE TOWN AND LORDSHIP OF WAKEFIELD,
IN THE
WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

GENTLEMEN,

To whom but to you should I address this History of George A Green, who was some time the Pindar of your good town of Wakefield. Your ancestors were those that fostered him, when an orphan ; they were also those, on whom in his maturer years, with great generosity and unanimity, they conferred the Pindarship ; and it cannot be believed, that you, their descendants, will now in this dress refuse him that protection, which he according to his wonted singular modesty, not only implores, but with all due submission, thinks himself intituled to.

Your townsmen, gentlemen, he was, born among you ; exceedingly beloved in his lifetime ; and his memory is still fresh and survives with you, for his valour, courage, and the many good services he did you.

I shall not, gentlemen, anticipate your expectations by enumerating here the glorious acts perform'd by him ; they will best appear by the ensuing history, which is now put into your hands, in humble expectation of your favourable acceptance.

Gentlemen, as seeing the Pindar cannot but promise himself in this manner a kind reception from you ; it would be a crime to question you should be any ways wanting in your civilities to the fair Beatrice, who was as celebrated for her vertue and beauty, as George was for his valour and courage.

As for the other persons that are necessarily introduced to render the story congruous and the more intelligible, you are free to judge of them, as you think fit. All that I desire is, leave to hope that your censure will be favourable both in respect to them, and to

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

N. W.

THE PREFACE.

WAKEFIELD is a market-town in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, in the Hundred of Agbridge, upon the river Calder, here covered with a fair stone bridge, which Edward the Fourth, king of England, adorn'd with a stately chappel: its a large town, well built of stone, of good antiquity, and drives the cloathing trade. Of this place it was, that George A Green was chosen Pindar, so long since as the reign of king Richard the First, as you'll find in the sequel of the history.

As for Pindar, 'tis a peculiar word and office in the north of England, that implies, one that looks after strays, and the like, being much the same as pound-keeper in the southern parts of the kingdom.

That there was such a person as George A Green, who was Pindar of the town of Wakefield, I think, is not at all to be doubted, from many considerations; to say nothing of the many signs we have of him, not only in and about London, but in several other parts,

the constant and uninterrupted tradition from father to son, they have retain'd of him to this day in the north, and more especially in the place of his nativity, is no small proof of it.

Indeed, I do not find the Pindar's name mention'd in any of our chronicles, but those of Robin Hood and Little John, who were George's cotemporaries, being recorded in Hollingshead, and there being some of the descendants of Little John, who bore, and they from him, the surname of Nailor, still, or at least very lately, in being in the kingdom, I cannot conceive this makes against, but rather for our present history, the actions of the other two, in all probability, happening to become more cognizable to that chronicler, upon account of their being outlaws, and the depredations they committed, than those of George's who, as he continued stedfast in his loyalty to his prince, follow'd also an honest and lawfully calling : its true, he was as conspicuous, and rather more for his valour, than any of them all; which must needs recommend him to the good opinion of the brave and generous ; and 'tis not to be imagined that any should value him the less, because he was more virtuous than the other.

I confess, it pleases me not a little, that George is taken notice of by Mr. Butler, the famous author of Hudibras, an immortal piece ; and the same seems to

be a confirmation upon the main of the truth of this history: for in his first canto of the second part, having brought Hudibras to promise his mistress he would suffer a whipping, on condition she would have him, and being not able to perswade his man Ralphe to undergo the punishment for him, he fell to threats, as if he would beat him, saying,

If not, resolve before we go,
That you and I must pull a crow.

to which the other answer'd,

Y' had best (quoth Ralphe) as the ancients
Say wisely, have a care' th' main chance,
And look before you, e're you leap ;
For as you sow, y' are like to reap.
And were y' as good as George A Green,
I shall make bold to turn agen ;
Nor am I doubtful of the issue
In a just quarrel and mine is so.

As for the history it self, its very easie to observe by its phraseology and manner of writing, that 'tis not very modern, but that the manuscript must at least have been as old as the days of Queen Elizabeth. Its lodged in a public library in the city of London, from which a copy was taken, and is now made publick, with no other alteration, than such as were necessary to make the sense tolerably congruous.

We do not pretend to vouch for the truth of this history in every particular : it was the practice of the times, upon such occasions as these, to imbellish truth (as the writers imagined) with some of their inventions, but it not being easie at such a distance nicely to distinguish the one from the other, we chose rather to put it entire into the hands of the gentle reader, to whose censure and determination we do wholly submit it.

However, to pleasure him so far as it lay in our power, and to set George forth in as conspicuous a manner as the circumstances of things would admit : we have added several cutts* to the Work, one of which represents the Pindar's person, and the rest the most memorable transactions of his life, especially his Acts of Valour, wherein he excelled, and for which he is justly celebrated to this day, and the publication of this his history is design'd for the perpetuating of fame to all future generations.

* These Cuts not being deemed sufficiently curious to warrant their being re-engraved have been omitted, with this exception, however, the whole of the manner and matter of the original Edition have been observed. Ed.

THE
HISTORY OF GEORGE A GREEN,
PINDAR OF THE TOWN OF
WAKEFIELD, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Parentage and Birth of George A Green ; and of some Accidents that happen'd to him in his Childhood, before he could hardly write Man, which gave great hopes of his farther Strength and Valour.

THAT this history may gain the greater credit and countenance, and not incur the imputation of a vain and fabulous discourse (of which number this age hath already been abused with too many) I thought it the best course, both for the reputation of the work, and the encouragement of the reader, to follow and observe an exact computation of time ; as also, all the series of such circumstances, as are not only known, but very remarkable in our best and most approv'd chronicles.

Thus therefore it followeth :

The reign of Henry the Second of that name, king of England, the son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, earl of Anjou, and Maud the empress, daughter of Henry the First, and younger son to William the Conqueror, began

in the month of October, in the year after our blessed Saviour's Incarnation, 1155, and in the nineteenth year of Lewis the Eighth, king of France. He was a prince of so great valour and courage, that he was often heard to say, That the world was not sufficient to contain or limit a valiant and magnanimous spirit. Neither did his words come much short of his heroical attempts, for he subdued Ireland by the sword, and surpriz'd William, king of Scots, in battle, joining and annexing the kingdom unto his own. He comprehended all the land and continent from the south ocean to the north islands of the Orcades, under due principality and government, now spaciously extending his empires more than any of his progenitors: for not any king of England before his time held so many countries and provinces under their dominion and government; for, besides his own kingdom and crown, of which he was immediate and apparent heir, and unto which he was lineally descended: he had under his rule and command, the entire dukedoms of Normandy, Gascoigne and Guyenne, Anjou and Chinon: besides, he subjected unto him Auvergne; with divers other lands and territories. Moreover, by his wife Eleanor (who had been before divorced from Lewis the Eighth, king of France) he had in dower the Montes Pyrenæi, the Pyrenean mountains that divide France and Spain. He had by this queen a fair and hopeful issue, namely five sons and three daughters. His sons were William, Henry, Richard, Godfrey, and John, of which two only succeeded him in the

kingdoin, viz. the third son Richard (after for his invincible courage surnamed Cuer de Lion) and John the younger. The eldest of his daughters was called Maud, who was married unto the duke of Saxony. The second, Eleanor, espoused to the king of Spain. The third, Jane, after wife to William, king of Sicily. This king was very prosperous in the beginning of his reign, but in the latter-end very unfortunate; for, as Gerald the chronicler recordeth of him, he reigned twenty-six years in all worldiy prosperity, and to the content of his heart; but the next four years with difficulty and trouble, and the five years after that with infinite vexation and sorrow: but the first combustions that grew in the kingdom, were about the twentieth year of his reign; for his sons being aided by the Scotch king and the two eminent earls of Chester and Lincoln; the cause of taking up arms against their father was, because he had imprison'd his Queen Eleanor, their mother, and kept the fair Rosamond as a Concubine, quite abandoning the bed and company of his lawful wife.

Thus far I have borrow'd of our English annals, the better to illustrate our succeeding history now in hand.

In these civil and domestick tumults, whilst the whole land was in an uproar, the father against the son, and the son oppos'd against the father, the whole land so bewildred in the following and abetting of these two several factions, was disjoin'd: not only peer against peer, and county against county; but, as in all such unnatural and intestine wars it happens, so in this it fell

out that the nephews oppos'd the uncles, brother the brother, and the son the father ; the one supporting the quarrel of the father, the other animating the faction of the rebellious children, as their fancies and affections diversly led them. Amongst those that abetted the insurrection of the princes was one Geoffrey Green, a rich and wealthy farmer of the town of Wakefield, who both with his purse and person assisted them in all their designs. These wars (as Reinolph witnesseth) lasted for the space of two whole years, to the great disturbance of the realm, at the end of which season the king had the better ; for the army of the princes was dispers'd, and the king pursuing his victory, besieged the two earls of Chester and Lincoln, with other great men, in Awich castle, and in a short space surpriz'd both it and them. These being thus taken, and the princes his sons fled, the king having quieted and pacified all the tumults within the realm, had now leisure to make enquiry after all such of his subjects, as, quite against their oath and allegiance, had taken up rebellious arms against him. In the list of those names was found this Geoffrey Green, whose life being pardon'd by the king's gracious clemency, yet, by a strict command from his highness, directed to the commissioners, all his goods and lands were seiz'd on as forefalt and confiscate to the crown ; the grief whereof made such a deep impression on him, that he survived not full two months after, leaving behind him one only son, about the age of nine years, heir only to his father's misfortunes ; for he had neither

house of his own to cover him, nor farm, nor cattle, nor goods by which to subsist.

His name was George, and that very A Green of whom our present discourse is form'd. And here I must give you to understand, that he was not (as some vainly have held) a foundling, that is, a forsaken infant, cast out by his unnatural parents, and taken up in his swaddling-cloaths ; and that those charitable people that first lighted on him, very much doubting of his baptism, caused him to be christned, whence the name of George was given him, and surnam'd of Green, of the town which is called Wakefield, on a green, and so brought up and educated by the common charity. Neither was he filius populi, a bastard, as some have ignominiously suggested, designing thereby to sully his worth by the infamy of his birth ; but he was the legitimate issue of an honest and substantial farmer of good means and ability, and of an unblemish'd reputation, well thought of by his neighbours, respectfully spoken of by the country, a man free from blemish or unjust taxation, until either over-soon reduced to embrace innovation, or over-much inclining to the immature succession, he fell into the fore-nam'd disaster.

As I have clear'd his birth from bastardy, so my design is to free his bringing-up from calumny ; for, according to the ability of his father, he was train'd up in the school of Wakefield to read and to write ; for in those days few farmers sons aim'd at any higher learning. Pregnant he was, and of a good capacity, but

especially excelling in strength those that exceeded him in years. He in all exercises of the body, especially when any trial was to be made by blows and buffets, had always the mastery, insomuch that his fellow scholars gave him the name of captain of the school. His means now failing, by reason of his father's poverty and untimely decease, his master began to carry a more hard and severe hand over him than before ; and because he found him to be as friendless as fatherless, began too much to insult on his poverty, by chastening and beating him on the least, or, perhaps, no occasion ; all which his great spirit (tho' yet a child) being not able to endure he purposed with himself, upon the next fit occasion, to put some pretty revenge or other upon his master, and so for ever after to quit the school. Opportunity being after presented to his wishes, it happen'd, that his master for some slight cause was wroth, calling him Cocain, and bid him prepare himself for the lash, for he must be whipp'd without all peradventures. George, at this terrible summons, perceiving his master's threatenings, and the rod menacing, he falls down on his knees with quæso præceptor (for he had so much Latin) in his mouth, to beg pardon, as loth upon so sudden a condemnation, to go to execution ; but after many threats on the one side, and many entreaties on the other, and none present that durst interpose themselves to mediate betwixt them, George perceiving his master to be inexorable, and neither to be moved with prayers nor tears, and remembraing himself of his former deter-

mination, whilst the pedagogue was calling out one to horse him, George suddenly thrust his head betwixt his master's legs, and holding them fast, and heaving with all his strength, he found he could move his heels above his own head ; so with a sudden heave he cast him off from his shoulders with such a tumbling quait, as we call a back somerset, and left him (not much considering whether his head or neck came first to the ground) lying flat upon his back, and half dead, in the midst of the school, which then stood open, and out of which he ran, with an intent and vow to himself never to come within that place after. Thus George in the marring of a scholar had almost spoil'd a shoolmaster ; for the poor man, now not so choleric as before, from threatening, began to entreat his scholars for help to get him upon his legs again, and employ'd others to run home, to get him some aqua vitæ, and others to lead him to his seat, sometimes complaining of a pain in his head, then of a creek in his neck, then of his back, and at other times of his bones ; but his scholar George was gone, and having made so bold with his legs, purposed never more to come within his fingers. This accident, tho' it distasted some, yet it pleas'd others, especially such as were indulgent over their children, to whom this pedant had been too harsh and tyrannous ; but gave occasion to all to speak George's strength and boldness, who being so young, durst adventure to cope with this tyrant, whose very looks made all the rest of his school-fellows quake and tremble. Many other such masteries,

he proved with such as equall'd him in years, and many with those that had out-gone him in time ; but in all his exercises he still came off with the best success. He was naturally of so honest a temper, and so gentle a behaviour, that he rather attracted love and amity, than emulation or enemies. But I have hitherto spoken of him as a child ; I must now entreat you to imagine so many years past over his head, till he was grown full man, that his understanding, was of better capacity, and his body of more able validity, the first to apprehend the other to undertake. These things duly consider'd here, I propose to conclude the first partition of this treatise, and prepare my self to go on with the second.

CHAP. II.

How George A Green was perswaded by a friend of his to go to an Astronomer, or Fortune-Teller, to cast his nativity.

GEORGE now growing to twenty years of age, and in regard both of his strength and stature, perswading himself he might write full man, began to consider what course of life he had best to take : and in this meditation meeting with a friend of his, and of his long acquaintance much familiar discourse was interchanged betwixt them : at length they fell upon the former argument. To the profession of a soldier he had a very great inclination, but he was frustrated in that ; for there was no employment for such persons, be-

cause there was a general peace and a cessation of civil arms throughout the kingdom. A serving man he did not much affect, because he held it too servile a life : and besides, he remembred himself of the two English proverbs, "That service was no hermitage ;" and again, "That an old serving-man made a young beggar." He was in no hopes to prove a scholar, because (as you have heard before) he had formerly too early broke up school. A trade he did not affect, because he could not endure to be imprison'd seven years in a shop to cry, What do you lack? Much conference to the former purpose past betwixt them : at length his friend told him, That some twelve miles distant from thence, at Hallifax, lived a south-sayer, or fortune-teller, one that cast figures, and could predict from mens nativities what should happen to them : and so he wished him to be advised by him, and accordingly as he should calculate of his birth, so to frame the course of his life. His friend so far prevail'd with him, that they purposed to undertake this journey ; and the rather George was perswaded to the motion, because he had heard from the mouths of others, that this man was a great artist, and got much money by his practice. The time was appointed, and at that time they went ; but coming somewhat late into the town, they thought it not best to trouble the artist that night, but rather to make proof of him early in the morning fresh and fasting. Merrily they supp'd together, with some good fellows of their acquaintance, to whom they conceal'd the principal

cause of their coming to the town ; but got up betimes, and understanding then, that ten groats was the ordinary price due to the cunning man, George had the fee in his hand ready for his counsel ; and being directed to his house, it fortun'd thus : just at the same time he had almost open'd the door, he found that some slovenly fellow or other bad laid a beastly and stinking load upon the threshold ; at which sight the cunning man seem'd to be out of patience, and amongst other language utter'd in his great fury as followeth, and spoke to this effect ; Well (quoth he) if I could but imagine, or find out by any enquiry what rascal hath put his nasty breech upon me, I would be so revenged on him to make him an example how to use any neighbour's door in that beastly manner hereafter. This was no sooner spoke, but he clapp'd too the door, and in he went ; when, saith his friend, Come, George, let's follow in close, for 'tis ten to one but we shall find him private. But he having another apprehension newly come into his head, told his friend, he should excuse him, for he was sorry he had taken so much pains to so little purpose ; and though he had made him such a fool to lose so much labour, yet he had so much wit left him as to keep his money. His friend demanding of him the reason why he utter'd such speech : George reply'd, Because I purpose to be as cunning as the cunning man, so as not to part with my money for nothing ; for (saith he) shall I ever believe he can resolve me of things to come, that cannot inform himself of a thing lately past : or that he can satisfie me

in the future course of my life and fortune, that cannot give himself satisfaction who hath this morning play'd the sloven upon his threshold? No, saith George, let him keep his art unto his own use, and I will reserve my money for my own spending: and so, without any further questions, he alter'd his course back to Wakefield, where he arriv'd something wiser than he went thither; but his friend, as arrant a fool as he was, got first thither.

CHAP. III.

How George A Green was chosen Pindar of the Town of Wakefield: how he carried himself in the place; and of some other accidents that happen'd unto him.

It happen'd, that soon after this his journey to Halifax, that the Pindar of the Town of Wakefeld died, and though the place was of no great reputation or credit, yet it was of some profit; and therefore divers of the town, and others of the neighbouring villages made suit for it; but George, being well belov'd, partly for his father's sake, but chiefly for his own temper and genteel carriage, (being a town-born child, and destitute both of means and employment) the most voices went, that though he made no suit for it, either by his own mouth, or the mediation of friends, that it should be mention'd unto him, if he would think fit to accept of so poor a favour, which proceeded from their general love, till a better fortune; and so was told, he should be possess'd

of it, notwithstanding all competitors. George being much pleased with such voluntary love, and being naturally in himself a hater of all ingratitude, besides that he was without a calling, and had no dependance on any man, he revolved within himself, that it was much better, and more commendable, to enter and undertake a mean profession, than none at all, and therefore he return'd the townsmen a thankful answer of acceptance, modestly excusing his own demerit; but with this condition, that in regard he understood there were many suiters for the place that seem'd more able and expert than himself, and withal, that it was an office that requir'd a strong and sufficient man, that must undergo many enterprizes without being overtopt and baffled. He, for his own part, desired rather that merit might carry it than favour; and therefore his request was, that all such as had interested themselves in the suit might appear next holiday, after even-song, upon the green of the town, to have a bout or two at quarter-staff, which was a weapon most in use in those days; and to take off all pretence for his being hated or envied in it. The motion was so necessary and just, that it could be denied by none, but accepted of all, and he was much commended for proposing it, and the rather, because thereby the townsmen were acquitted from seeming inclin'd more to one party than another. Upon this the day was appointed, and summons sent speedily, not only to the neighbouring villages, but proclaim'd in all the market towns in the county (without exception) that

whosoever would make their personal appearance, as well strangers as others, should not only have fair admittance, but he that could maintain his claim by staff and law, should not only have their general voice, but have the possession of the Pindarship during his life, &c. When the time came, a great confluence of people appear'd; for the country came in from all parts and corners, and many champions entred within the lists. Many a stout tinker in the country was seen with his long staff upon his neck (for lances belong'd only to horsemen) and not one but would venture his budget in the quarrel. George was their champion and challenger; the rest were defendants. The prize proposed for the conqueror was the Pindarship. Neither bakers nor butchers were exempted: nay, even fencers were not excluded, for the challenge was general. Many that made no pretensions to the place, came in for their renown, and to shew their valour. The champion stands forth, a defendant appears, the charge is given, not by trumpets, but bag-pipes, as the seers-men go to war. As one was struck down, another started up in his place. I can compare Geerge in this war most properly to Hercules fighting with Hydra; for as one is vanquished, there appears in his place two or three. Fewer staves have been broken at a tilt on a coronation day, than quarter staves at this trial of strength. Twenty of their heads which stood right upon their shoulders, in less than an hour's space stoop'd lower than their knees: yet in him there was neither seen weakness nor weariness.

ness, but he appear'd as fresh as when he first began the encounter. Others, who came with a resolution to make proof of their valour, learn'd by other mens harms how to beware, and seeing so many able and stout fellows foil'd, forbore to come into the lists: for, seeing crack'd crowns pass so currant, they thought it the safest way to sleep in a whole skin. In short, he staid there so long to oppose, that none appear'd to resist: so that the place (with the common consent of the whole country) was conferr'd on him, which, they all acknowledged, came to him not by favour, but his merit and pure desert; and as he attracted the hearts of all men, so questionless his valour being accompany'd with his fair and genteel carriage, (as before hinted) interested him in the bosoms of many women, especially one fair damosel, whose name was Beatrice, the only daughter and heir of a rich justice of the peace, whose name was Grymes, a man of a fair revenue, and of no mean reputation in the country; who being the prime beauty in all those northern parts, was soon espied by George at such interims of breathing, wherein having foil'd one champion, he cast his eyes about till he perceiv'd another to appear before him. She perceiving him at all opportunities to cast a loving look at her, fail'd not to meet his eyes with the like interview of amorous glances: and according to the proverb, "Who ever lov'd that lov'd not at first sight?" So it may be said of George and Beatrice: for ever after that time there was such an impression of cordial and entire love betwixt them, as never could be

raiz'd out by any prevention or disaster whatsoever, as shall further appear in the sequel. But here we shall leave our new made Pindar, with a loud applause of all the lusty lads of the town and country, carry'd home to his lodgings; and his sweet-heart attended by the country maidens (according to her degree) unto her father's house, some two miles off, who had rather (would modesty have permitted her) have made a shorter journey of it, and born him company that night in the town, as he would likewise have been willing to have made a longer journey, and have usher'd her home; but neither of these could have their desire with any convenience. Part they must, and part they did, meeting as near in their thoughts, as they were divided far in their bodies, where I must now likewise take leave of them for a little time, to inform you what happen'd in the mean time in the nation.

CHAPTER IV.

Of a great Insurrection in the Kingdom, made by the Earl of Kendall, and his Accomplices, by Reason of a vain Prophecy: and how George A Green demeaned himself towards the Rebels, &c.

RICHARD the First, son of Henry the Second, after his father's decease, began his reign in the month of July, in the year of grace, one thousand one hundred four-score and nine, who having established and settled Normandy, and ordered his affairs in England, after he

had released his mother Eleanor from prison, whom the king his father had kept long in durance, by reason that she was the death of his best beloved Rosamond ; he likewise conferred many honours on his younger brother John, as giving him the provinces of Nottingham, Devonshire and Cornwall, and creating him earl of Lancaster, and moreover had marry'd him to the earl of Gloucester's sole daughter, by which that earldom came shortly into his hands. I say, Richard having settled his affairs, he prepar'd for a voyage to the Holy Land, in conjunction with Philip the Second, then king of France. During his absence he constituted the bishop of Ely, then chancellor of England, vicegerent of the kingdom. This bishop being on the one side covetous, and by many unjust impositions oppressing the nation, and the king's brother ambitious on the other, as presuming much upon his royal birth, and his great possessions, some persons fomented great factions and combinations against the tyranizing prelate ; so that all things grew out of frame and order ; and great distractions ensued ; nay, a third ulcer, worse than the former, broke into open rebellion, namely, an insurrection was raised by the earl of Kendal, with divers of his adherents, as, the Lord Bouteil, Sir Gilbert Armstrong, and others. These having gather'd an army of some twenty thousand malecontents, made publick proclamation, that they came into the field for no other cause, but to purchase their country-mens liberty, and to free them from the great and insufferable oppression which

they then liv'd under, by the prince and prelate. This drew to the earl many followers for the present, so that he seem'd to have got together a very potent army. But the main reason of this rebellion was, that when the earl was but a child, a wizard had prophesy'd of him, That Richard and he should meet in London, and the king should there vail his bonnet unto him: and this prediction of the south-sayer prov'd afterwards to be true, but not as he vainly had expounded it. The earl having led his army into the north, struck a great terror into all those honest subjects, that tender'd their allegiance to their absent king and sovereign, and wish'd well to the good of the commonwealth, and the safety of the kingdom; yet many were forced through fear to supply his men with necessary provisions, lest otherwise they should have made spoil and havock of all they had. Now, the earl being for some time destitute of many things that are useful and commodious for an army, and encamping some five miles from the town of Wakefield, the three confederates drew a commission, and having sign'd it with their own seals sent it by one Mannering, a servant of the earl's, to the bailiff and towns-men of Wakefield, requiring seemingly, by way of intreaty, to send unto his host such a quantity of provision, of corn and cattle, with other necessaries (of which he was then in great want,) and withal, such a sum of money as he demanded for the payment of so many soldiers, to which this Mannering was to perswade them by all fair means possible: but, if they should deny his request, he

was to threaten them with fire and sword, with all the violence that could be suggested to them. The news of this commission coming to their knowledge, the bailiff sent abroad to the neighbouring justices, as, to Mr. Grymes, and others; so that he and his brethren appointed to give them a meeting in the town-house, where many of the Commons were to be present, and, amongst others, George A Green purposed to be there, to hear what would become of the business. The summons being made, the assembly met, and the messenger appear'd, show'd his warrant, and, according to his orders, told them what great conveniences would grow in supplying the army, and withal entreated from the lords their love and favour. The bailiff and the justices were loth, it being contrary to their allegiance, to grant their request; yet they were fearful withal peremptorily to deny it, and stood wavering long and debating amongst themselves what they had best do for their own safeties; which Mannering seeing, without doing any reverence at all unto the bench, he began to alter his phrases, and changed the copy of his countenance, first taunting and deriding their faint-hearted cowardize, and afterward threatening them, that if they gave not present satisfaction to his demand, the army would instantly remove, make havock and spoil of their goods and chattels, ravish their daughters, and deflower their wives before their faces, and make a bonfire of the town, to the terrifying of others, whose insolence durst oppose the earl his master's commission. At this haughty and insufferable

menaces, whilst the bench sate quaking, George presseth forward in the face of the court, and desireth, by the favour of the bench, to have the liberty, according to his plain and weak understanding, to give the messenger an answer, which being granted him, he boldly stept up to him, and demanded his name, who made him answer, that his name was Mannering. Mannering (saith he;) that name was ill bestow'd on one who can so forget all manners, as to stand cover'd before a bench, upon which the majesty of his sovereign was represented: whieh manners (saith he) since thou wantest, I will teach thee: and withal, first snatching his bonnet from his head, trod upon it. then spurn'd it before him. At which the other, being enraged, ask'd him, How he durst to offer that violence to one, who brought so strong a commission? Your commission (saith George) I cry your mercy, sir: and withal, desired the favour of the bench, that he might have the liberty to peruse it, which being granted, I marry (saith he, having read it) I cannot chuse but submit my self to this authority: and making an offer, as if he meant to kiss it, tore it in pieces. Mannering seeing this, began to stamp, stare and swear; but George taking him fast by the collar, so shook him, as if he had purposed to have made all his bones loose in his skin, and drawing his dagger, and pointing it to his bosom, told him, He had devised physick to purge his cholerick blood; and gathering up the three seals, told him, It was these three pills which he must instantly take and swallow, and never more expect to

return to his master: nor did he leave him, or take the dagger from his breast, till he had seen it down, and afterwards, when he had perceiv'd that they had almost choak'd him, he call'd for a bottle of ale, and said these words: It shall never be said, that a messenger shall be sent by such great persons to the town of Wakefield, and that none would be so kind as to make him drink, therefore here (saith he) Mannering, is a health to the confusion of the traitor thy master, and all his rebellious army, and pledge it me without evasion or delay, or I vow by the allegiance which I owe to my prince and sovereign, that thou hast drunk thy last already. Mannering, seeing there was no remedy, and feeling the wax still sticking in his throat, drank it off supernaculum; which the other seeing, Now (saith he) commend me to thy master, and the rest, and tell them, one George A Green, no better man than the Pindar of the town of Wakefield, who tho' I have torn their commission, yet I have sent them their seals safe back again by their servant. Whatsoever Mannering thought, little was he heard to speak, but went away muttering the devil's Pater Noster, and so left them. Every body commended the resolution of George, and, by his sole encouragement, purposed henceforward to oppose themselves against the insurrection of the rebels.

CHAP. V.

How George wrote a letter to fair Beatrice, and of the success thereof: how it was deliver'd to her; With other accidents pertinent to the history.

THE news of this late exploit done by the Pindar was related at home by Justice Grymes to Beatrice, his fair daughter, which he flourish'd over with such an extraordinary commendation of his spirit and valour, that it added fresh flames to that fire, which was already kindled in her breast; neither could any thing delight her more, than to hear him commended much, and praised often; and nothing troubled her so much, as that modesty would not suffer her to lay hold of an opportunity to acquaint him with her affection. George, on the contrary was as much perplex'd with the consideration of the difference of their births and estates: she an esquire's daughter, and he but the son of a yeoman: Her father a justice of the peace, his a farmer: She the heir to fair estate, and he born to so mean a fortune: she so rich, and he so poor. These discouragements drove him into so deep a melancholy, that nothing could cheer and comfort him: But then, when he again consider'd with himself, that all virtuous lovers still respected the person more than place, and still preferr'd the man above his means; and moreover, that he that fear'd not the face of a man, should not be daunted at the frowns of a woman; that faint heart never compass'd fair lady; and, that all con-

tracts were first confirm'd in heaven before they could be concluded upon earth. Many of these conceptions, I say, continuing, he begins to devise by what means he might acquaint her with his affection; and knowing it was a commendable ambition, rather to aim high than look low, and to raise his fortune than depress them, he thought to make proof, proposing to himself, that the worst that could befall him could not be death, but the most a denial; and having read, that it is a kind of ingratitude for one to be angry or incensed against any one for loving and honouring them, he therefore took pen in hand (as one loth to offend) and thought cautiously rather to express his own passions, than presumptuously to urge or perswade her affections (especially upon no acquaintance) and being a pretty poet, such as those times afforded, he wrote this fancy.

What art thou, beauty, not commended?

Or what is state, if not attended?

Or gold in ground

If sought not found?

What's favour in a prince offended?

All like smoak and bubbles prove?

And so it happens to my love.

What are pleasures, if untry'd?

Or what great suits, if deny'd?

Or what's to thee,

That cannot see?

Phœbus in his height of pride,
Fair may be, and yet we do annoy
That hope, yet helpless to enjoy.

What wealth, unless we may possess it?
Or virtue, if none dare profess it?
Even so it fares
With these my cares.

Then what my mistress, who can guess it?
Save you that only know it:
I have a heart, but dare not owe it.

In discovering his meaning thus overtly, he was afraid lest it might, perhaps, breed some distaste, yet it could not beget any anger; besides, if it came in question, he might thus excuse it: Cats may look upon kings. The air is free for all men to breath in: And, no man is barr'd the privilege to gaze upon the sun, because it shines freely upon all things. This might express he lov'd her, which she could bar no man from doing, and yet never be any injury unto her, and therefore he could incur no just taxation. Being animated with these hopes, he subscrib'd his name, seal'd it, and gave it to his boy, giving him a great charge in the delivery, and to watch some opportunity, when neither suspicious ears or eyes were about her, to shelter it in her private walk, or way, where she might be sure to find it, and take it up. The boy proved an apt scholar, and did as his master had tutor'd him: so good success he had, that the letter came safely to her hands. Upon her

perusing it over and over, I may very well say, that never came tidings unto her of more comfort, to her (before) sad and discontented heart. And now all her study and care was how to return him a pleasing and sudden answer ; for well she consider'd, that in these affairs there was no benefit in appearing coy, or delaying of time, in regard she had many suiters propos'd unto her father, of equal means and fortunes, who were daily importunate for answer, and hourly solicited her by letters, and to all which she gave fair answers and seeming entertainment, but with a settled and constant resolution to run her fortune with her best belov'd George, and in this resolution she retired her self into her chamber, and having shut the door, took pen, ink and paper, and writ to him as followeth.

Prove but as constant as th'art bold,
Thy suit shall never be controul'd.
I am not to be bought or sold
For wealth or treasure.

Let suiters fret, and fathers rage,
Then keep me in an iron cage ;
Yet I myself to thee engage ;
I'll use my Pleasure.

Then be no longer discontent :
I write no more than what is meant.
With this my hand my heart is sent.
Be't thine endeavour,

To lay some plot how we may meet,
And lovingly each other greet
With amorous words and kisses sweet.
Thine for ever.

To this she subscrib'd her name, not standing to examine it, whether any thing had pass'd her hand rashly or unadvisedly: so great was her love, and so much her fear, either of discovery or prevention. She folded it up, and wore it in her bosom, but destitute of any safe means how it should be privately convey'd without any suspicion into his hauds. In this distraction, walking one morning at some distance from her father's house, she espied William, the Pindar's boy, not far from the gate, whom she presently knew to be the same who had dropp'd the first letter, and imagin'd, that his lingering there was to find, if he could learn what success his master's suit had: so that perceiving the coast clear, and that no eyes were fix'd upon her, she let fall her letter in the boy's sight, and, as if she had lost it by chance, retired herself towards the house without any notice thereof, or more speaking; yet warily casting her eye on the one side, to see whether he took it up or no. The lad, as crafty as she was cunning, took it up, and finding by the superscription, that it was not his master's hand, was glad within himself, as hoping he should now be the messenger of good news and tidings to his master, he presently runs home with it: but never was man more extacy'd than George, when he had open'd

the letter and read it; in which profound contemplation I must leave him to speak of the Rebels, who hearing of the fame of fair Beatrice's beauty, the sole clear and resplendent star of the north, the earl, the Lord Bonvile, and Sir Gilbert, commanding then the country, had left the charge of the army to such as they best trusted, and invited themselves to the House of Justice Grymes, who, tho' much against his will, was forced to give them a seeming welcome, and liberty to court his daughter: But she being constant in her former resolution, put them off with slight answers, resolving within herself to humour all, but to give satisfaction unto none of them. Whilst they were thus revelling, Mannering, having miss'd them in the army, brought to them that unpleasing answer from the town of Wakefield, relating to them every particular circumstance, and told how, not only he, but even they themselves were baffled by a peasant, one George A Green, who had not only torn their commission, but made him swallow their Seals. 'Tis no wonder they were much incensed at this affront, in regard it proceeded from a man of such low condition, neither wanted they any thing in murmuring, by reason of his former disgrace, to incite them to revenge. That night they spent in feasting, and courting fair Beatrice, the earl promising to make her a countess at least: but on the morrow they took their leave of Mr. Grymes and his fair daughter, and coming to the army, they began to lay their heads together to consult how to take the Pindar, in whose only valour (by Mannering's

Report) the whole might and strength of the town consisted. Whilst these things were thus debating, Sir William Musgrave, a grave old knight, associated with his son Cuddy Musgrave, a very valiant and successful gentleman, had raised a small power in the absent king's behalf, who, tho' fewer in number, waited an opportunity, upon the least advantage, to fall upon the rebels; but they were so strongly encamp'd, that he could not yet do it without great hazard to his person and people; in which distraction I must leave him for a while, to speak of other adventures pertinent to the story.

CHAP. VI.

How George A Green surpriz'd a spy, who was sent by the rebels to betray Sandon Castle, of which Sir William Musgrave and his son Cuddy had the keeping; and of sundry other passages.

BEFORE what happen'd in Wakefield betwixt George and Mannering, the Earl of Kendal had hired a spy, and given him good store of money in his purse, to make tryal if either by favour or reward he could corrupt any man to betray Sandon Castle to him, in which the Musgraves lay with a very small garrison, and had fortified it against any assault which could be made by the rebels. This fellow strowling abroad, chanced to meet with George, whom he knew not, or ever had seen before, and entring into discourse, George perceiving that he was of the Baron's faction, sooth'd him up with

smooth language, and began to commend the enterprize, as though it had a pretence of good to the kingdom and liberty of the commonwealth, and screw'd himself first so far into the other's bosom, as that he plainly told him what his purpose was, and withal shew'd him gold very plentiful, which, he said, should be his that could devise any plot to bring this stratagem to pass. The Pindar, glad of this occasion, tells him, he would undertake for such a sum to bring him safe into the castle, in the dead of night, that he might at his pleasure set open the gates, and let in as many of his confederates as he pleased. George presently lays the plot, which was agreed to by the other, and thus it was: I am very well known to all that are in the castle, (says he) and am often sent unto them, to carry them provisions. Now I would wish you to enter it in the close of the evening. I will take you on my back, (as if you were a burthen of corn, or some other commodity, such as I usually bring thither) and put you with in some corner of the castle that is least suspected: Upon which, in the dead of night, when you think all things very secure, you may get out, and so opening the gates, let all your friends and accomplices in. This was deliver'd with so sober and serious a countenance, that the sack was instantly provided, and he put into it; which was no sooner done, but George lifts it up upon his shoulders, and nimbly carries Sir Troth in ken of the castle, when taking a slering-cord out of his pocket, with which he used to lead strays to the pound, fastned it to the mouth of the sack, and coming to the tree just

before the castle-green, and hoisting him more than twice his height from the ground, fasten'd the cord, and leaving him betwixt heaven and earth tottering in the air, bids him farewell, and at his parting left this inscription pinn'd upon his breast.

Whoever next shall pass this way,
A little I entreat to stay ;
And if he'll dain to look so high,
He'll see a a most notorious spy.
This sack too I wou'd have you think,
More wholesome is to hang than drink ;
Because in this a plot was laid,
By which you all had been betray'd.
Use him according to your skill,
Who sought this night your blood to spill,
If who did this you shall enquire,
'Twas George A Green did hang him here.

George having done this, trudg'd as fast as he could towards the town, to look to his charge; he was scarce gone out of sight, when Sir William Musgrave and his son Cuddy, walking about to take the evening air, Cuddy by chance casting his eye, espies this strange wonder, and showing it to his father, they drew nearer to be satisfied of the novelty, and having read the bill upon his breast, they might easily perceive, as the proverb has it, What Pig was in the Poke, and what commodity the sack contain'd, when presently cutting him down with

such haste, that he had almost broke his neck with the fall, they open'd the sack, and found the traitor ; upon which they sent him to the castle, where they made him confess all the purposes of the rebels, and at the same time much commanding George A Green for his witty conceit, as also for his truth and fidelity to his prince and sovereign. But now, for variety's sake, I will break off this discourse, tho' somewhat abruptly, and speak a word or two of Robin Hood, his maid Mariana, and his bold yeoman, who at this time kept revel rout, in the forest of Sheerwood, &c.

CHAP. VII.

Of Robin Hood, Maid Mariana, and the bold Yeoman ; and how envying the fame of George A Green, and the rumour of the beauty of fair Beatrice, Mariana could not be in quiet, till it could be tried whether Robin or George were the valientest, or she and Beatrice the fairest.

My purpose is not to trouble the reader with any tedious discourse, by telling of you, how Robin Hood was first earl of Huntington, and for his vertue suppress'd and turn'd out of all his possessions by the covetous bishop before spoken of, and the person whom the king at his departure to prosecute the wars, had made governour of the kingdom ; nor how she that stiled herself maid Mariana, was Matilda, daughter to the Lord Fitz-Wal-

ters, and having discovered the royal affections of Prince John, retired herself into the forest of Sherwood, for the true love and affection she bore unto her best beloved Robin ; which history would require a small volume of itself, but I only propose to speak so much of them in brief, as is pertinent to the history now in hand. I entreat you to take it into remembrance, that George A Green for his strength and valour, and Beatrice, the daughter of Justice Grymes, for her beauty, were the most famous in all those northern parts : that Robin and his Mariana, before unparalleld, were now scarce spoken of, insomuch, that an ambitious emulation was the cause that Robin and George, Mariana and Beatrice afterwards grew into great quarrel and acquaintance, as shall be made more manifest by the sequel. It was their custom still, when he and his yeomen went to the chase, that they all in their green, being arm'd with good yew bows, and every one of them a sheaf of arrows hanging at their girdles, came early in the morning to the place where he lay, to call him up, with a song to this purpose :

Now wend we together, my merry men all,
Unto the green wood side-a,
And there to kill a buck, or a doe,
Let your cunning all be try'd-a.
No man may compare with Robin Hood,
With Robin Hood's Slathbatch and John-a,
The like was never, nor never shall be,
In case that they were gone-a.

Then let us not linger away the time,
But hie to the merry green wood-a.
And there to strike down a buck or a doe,
For my master Robin Hood-a :
For my master Robin Hood-a.

With this musick of well tun'd voices, it was their custom to salute him, and after attend him to the game. But it happen'd, that having had for the space of four or five days together very rainy and tempestuous weather, Mariana all this time was in a deep and sudden melancholy, the cause whereof he could by no means wrest from her, though he had labour'd it by all fair means and much entreaty ; insomuch, that he began to be a little jealous of her love, as falling off from him, and inclining to Prince John, who never left off soliciting her by messengers and letters, with sundry gifts and presents: but having had sufficient proof of her faith and constancy, he then began again to blame and chide his diffidence and mistrust, and attribute her sadness and melancholy to the gloomy, unseasonable and tempestuous weather, which might easily be the cause of that her indisposition. To expel this (for nothing could be mere grievous unto him than to behold her sad) he attiring one of his pages in the habit of a wood nymph, and having provided a curious and costly mantle, wrought in divers colours, he by him presented it unto her as she was sitting solitary, with great reverence, with this song, a sweet and delicate consort of musick being placed behind her unseen, who with their soft strains thus began :

Beauty's rose and virtue's look,
Angel's mind and mortal's book,
Both to men and angels dear.

Oh ! thou fairest on the earth,
Heaven did smile in your first birth,
And since the days have been most clear.

Only poor St. Swithin now
Doth fear you blame his cloudy brow :
But that your saint devoutly swears,
It is but a tradition vain,
That his much weeping causeth rain :
For saints in heaven can shed no tears.

But this he says, that to the feast
Comes Iris an unwelcome guest,
In her moist robe of colours gay.

And when she comes, she ever stays
For the full space of forty days,
And, more or less, rains every day.

But this good saint, when once he knew
This rain was like to fall on you,
(If saints cou'd weep) he wept as much,
As when you did the lady lead,
That did on burning iron tread ;
To virgins his respect is such.

He gently then bid Iris go
Unto th' Antipodes below :
But she for this more sullen grew.

When he saw this with angry look,
From her this rainy robe he took,
Which here he doth present to you.

It's fit with you it shou'd abide,
As men's great wonder, vertue's pride :
Yet if it rains still as before,
St. Swithin prays that you would guess,
That Iris doth more robes possess,
And that you wou'd blame him no more.

The song was no sooner ended, when that Robin appear'd, who in the stead of friendly thanks and courteous salutation, now drew these words from her, "I may wonder, sir, that you can be so stupid and gross to sooth up your self, or to flatter me, to call me the pride of nature and wonder of mankind, when both our lustres are so suddenly eclipsed. Within these few months, who so famous for magnanimity and valour as Robin Hood? And who more renowned for chastity and beauty, than his Mariana? who are now scarce thought on, much less spoken of at all. Are not all the mouths of the multitude only fill'd with the brave deeds, valiant acts and exploits perform'd by George A' Green, the famous Pindar of Wakefield; and of the resplendent sun of the north, fair Beatrice, daughter of old Grymes of the north, and both preferr'd before an earl, and I the daughter of an earl; whereas the Pindar is but a Yeoman, and she the child of a mean gentleman; and yet

these two very far exceed us in the public voice of the kingdom. Now, can you blame me to be struck into this deep melancholy, hearing of them such loud acclamations abroad, and of ourselves scarce any rumour or report at all?" When she had thus freely utter'd her thoughts, Robin on his part, commended her noble emulation, and demanded of her what in this case was fittest to be done. To whom she reply'd, "That as two suns could not shine in one element, neither could two unparalleled beauties be resplendent in one country, without contending which should have the Priority:" then farther counsell'd him, that for both their honours, they should travel as far as Wakefield, where he should try masteries with George which was the better man, and she to show herself unto Beatrice, upon which true judgment might pass which was the fairest woman. Robin, than whom a more undaunted and bolder spirit was not known to breath in that age, was not a little pleased to hear, that that was the only cause of her discontent, when taking her by the hand, and raising her from the ground, he bad her be of good chear, for before that month was expired she should be lady of her wishes; and having seal'd this with a sweet kiss, he gave instantly order for his journey; but privately, lest being taken from his guard of archers (he being outlaw'd) it might prove some danger to his person. He therefore selected out of the rest only three of the stoutest amongst his crew, namely, Slathbatch, Little John, and the Fryar, for

his attendants, and these were to have the charge of his fair Mariana in the journey, in pursuing which I leave them for the present, the success whereof you shall have more at large hereafter.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Earl of Kendal and the Lord Bonvile laid an ambush to betray George A Green, and the success thereof: how he prevented the earl's policy, and what happen'd thereupon.

As the name of George grew greater and greater, so the displeasure of the rebels was encreased against him more and more, especially for those two merry affronts, the one against Mannering, the other against their spy, of whose surprizal they had lately got intelligence, and therefore thought to defer their revenge no longer: wherefore they having placed a strong ambush, thought they had him fast; for the earl, Bonvile, and Mannering, thinking to lay a bait for him, which he could not chuse but be nibbling at, being well mounted, broke down a strong fence, and put in their horses to feed in the corn. George, whose careful eye was ever watchful over his business, soon espied them, and call'd his boy, commanding him to drive them to the pound. These disguised persons ask'd him what he meant to do with their horses? Whether he would steal them before their faces? and began to offer the lad violence; which George perceiving, and as yet not knowing them, said,

"It was base and discourteous in gentlemen, such as they seem'd to be to do an injury in that nature, and then to maintain it by being obstinate in it." To which the earl answer'd, "That these belong'd to him, and were put into the corn to feed in despight of him, or who should say nay." The Pindar seeing no more to appear, thought that their great words should not so carry it away, and told them in plain terms what a forfeit they had made, and what amends they should make, or else as they rode on horse-back thither, they should go on foot horse; and then he swore (by no be-garrs,) but by the life of good king Richard, he would see it perform'd. The earl hearing him name the king, told him, "That he was but a base groom and peasant, and had affronted one, that e're long would be king Richard's better." The word was no sooner from his lips, but George who could not endure such indignity breath'd against his sovereign, struck him with his staff a sound blow betwixt his neck and shoulders, telling him "that he ly'd like a traitor, and he would make it good upon his carcass." At which Mannering stepping forth told him, "That he was a villain, and had struck an earl;" who answer'd him with a word and a blow, "That as before he had unseal'd his commission, so now he would sign him a pass-port into another world, and withal laid him at his foot. The Lord Bonvile seeing this, gave the watch-word to the men in ambush, which were about some forty in number, who encompass'd him round: which George seeing, he began to apprehend, that whenever force was near the foil, the surest recourse

was to policy, and thereupon craved a parley, which was obtain'd, and George began as followeth : " I wonder, sir, that you, being a nobleman, an earl, and, which is more, the general of so puissant an army, will be so injurious to your power, as to assault and circumvent a poor single man, and of no renown and reputation, with such unequal odds. What have I done more to your person abusing my king, than you would have expected from your peasant Mannering, if he had heard your honour reviled and abused ? If you expect from him the duty of a peasant, will you deny me, or blame me in the same duty to my king ? Besides, my lord, if you can make it appear, that your cause is just, and your undertakings for the good and benefit of the commonwealth, I shall be glad to follow you, and to draw my sword in your quarrel." He was about to proceed, when Bonvile taking the earl aside, persuaded him to take his friendly offer, making no question, but but if they could insinuate him into their faction, he might persuade others, but especially the town of Wakefield to come under their peaceable obedience. This the earl approving, he spoke to him after this manner : " Thy submission and apology, which thou hast so boldly utter'd, hath taken off my spleen, and mediated with me for thy person and pardon : and thereupon commanding his ambuscade to their camp, he thus proceeded : " My rising in arms is to suppress the insolencies of a proud prince and an insolent prelate, who have much insulted on the privileges and liberties of the commonwealth. For the common good I stand ;

but the greatest inducement that drew me into this cause was a wizzard's infallible prophecy just at my very birth, who thus calculated my nativity, That king Richard and I should meet in London, and he vail his bonnet to me." To whom the Pindar reply'd, " Ay marry, my lord, you speak to the purpose, indeed, and upon this encouragement I am willing to be but your soldier and servant: but, my lord, might I humbly presume to advise you, the better to justifie your proceedings, and for a more compleat notion of your affairs. There is an old reverent man in a cave not far hence, who is a great predicter, and was never known to fail in that speculation. It were not amiss to take his advice and see how nicely his calculation jumps with the former. Please you this night to take some simple provision, such as my poor cottage can afford; my boy shall lead you to his cave, where you may be satisfied of all your doubts and difficulties. The motion was accepted, and concluded on. The morning was much long'd for, and came. The Pindar had provided himself early, and convey'd all things necessary for his purpose into the place last nam'd. The boy conducted them thither, where the Pindar having disguised himself like an old Hermite, such as he had before describ'd, and counterfeiting his voice, told them of all such things as they had before related unto him, at which they wonder'd, calling them particularly by their names, and discover'd unto them the intent of their coming. But suddenly in the midst of their discourse, he throws off his counterfeit

habit, and with his good staff, which never fail'd him at his need, he so bestirr'd himself, that, after some small resistance, having no hole to creep out at, and being without their ambush, he first disarm'd them, then seiz'd them as his prisoners; and having provided certain officers, with a strong guard, he sent them to the House of Justice Grymes, by him to be safely convey'd to London, to be disposed of by the king, who was now return'd from the holy wars in Palestine.

CHAP. IX.

How George A Green, having seiz'd the arch-rebels, plotted a means how to be possess'd of his most beloved Beatrice, and what afterwards became of Armstrong and the army.

As the Pindar was vigilant and careful for the honour of the king, and the welfare of the publick, so he was not altogether forgetful of his own private affairs, especially of that great affection which he bore to fair Beatrice, betwixt whom at all convenient opportunities there had pass'd entertaining letters, she solemnly protesting to him to let slip no occasion of freeing her self from the close confinement of her father's house, and to fly unto him as her only protection and sanctuary. Hereupon he consider'd in some time a devise to accomplish it, viz. That his boy Willy should put himself into the habit of a seamstress's maid, and furnishing him with lace-bands, and other commodities belonging to the

trade, he should with least suspicion get admittance to her. Fortune so well favour'd the design, that the boy came to shew his wares, when her father was busied in receiving the earl of Kendal and his accomplices, which prevented a too curious enquiry about the lad; so that he was freely admitted to shew his wares unto his daughter, who was then in her chamber. He was no sooner entred, but shutting the door, he disclosed himself, with the intent of his coming, namely, that Beatrice should put her self into the habit of a seamstress, and muffling her face, as if she had the tooth ach (for in that posture the boy came in) and taking her box and laces, should pass thro' the gates, leaving the boy in her habit to answer her father, and to stand the peril at all adventures. Glad was fair Beatrice of the motion, and with as much speed as willingness put off her own cloaths to put on the other's. Willy was as nimble as she, and was as soon ready to be taken for Mrs. Beatrice, as she for a seamstress's servant; so that she easily, by holding her handkerchief before her mouth, as troubled with a pain in the teeth, past thro' the people, and got out of the gates unquestion'd where we leave her on her way towards Wakefield and Willy in her chamber to answer her escape, and return to Armstrong.

He, in the earl's absence, had the charge of the camp, who thinking himself as secure as the earl had appear'd to be negligent, was set upon in the night by Sir William Musgrave and his son Cuddy, who took him when he was careless and asleep, by which means they quite dis-

comfited the whole army, and young Cuddy fighting with Armstrong, took him prisoner hand to hand. Glad of such a present to welcome the king home from the holy war; and with such progress, he made preparations to hasten with him to London, and to present him as a pattern of his prowess.

In the interim, to return again to Justice Grymes, the greatest part of his business being over, he stole privately to see his daughter, in her chamber; but finding another maid, as he thought, sit sleeping in her habit, he espied a face with which he had not been acquainted; and thereupon he grew first into amazement, and afterwards, fearing what he suspected to be true, he demanded of the boy Willy, first, what she was? Then, how she came thither? Who, with a demure countenance, answer'd, "she was a poor gentlewoman, and came thither upon her legs." Grymes then roughly ask'd him, what was become of his daughter? "Truly, sir, that seamstress's habit which well becomes your daughter hath been the means to convey her abroad; but lest her chamber should be found empty, she left me here as a pawn till her return." The justice was still more and more enraged, threatening with all manner of threats to use all the rigour that the law could possibly afford towards punishing him, without he told him the truth.

But before this matter could be fully ended betwixt the justice and Willy, he was call'd down again about his commonwealth business, which was instantly to be dispatch'd out of hand; yet still this young impostor

ran in Grymes's mind, and had too great an impression upon his affections, therefore he lock'd her in his chamber, and took the key along with him, with this resolution, that if by her means he had lost a daughter, (he being a widower) if she could give a good account of her birth and means, she should make him a wife. These and the like meditations somewhat moderated his choler for the present, therefore he made what expedition he could to dispatch off his prisoners, that he might have a more speedy visit in her quarters. But I must leave them there, to return to Robin Hood and his fair Mariana, who had now by this time overcome the greatest part of their journey, and shew what happen'd to them at their meeting with the Pindar and his Beatrice.

CHAP. X.

Of that which happen'd between Robin Hood and his Mariana, and George A Green and his Beatrice ; and how their great animosity was at length reconciled, and of other pertinent accidents.

THE great joy at the meeting of George and his Beatrice was unspeakable, and the rather, because so unexpected. But as there is no day so clear, but there will appear some clouds to eclipse the beauty of the sky, so in their great alacrity and abundance of present content, there was one thing that appear'd troublesome and grievous unto them, namely, the danger Willy had incur'd for their sakes. There was no sudden remedy could be

used, and so their fears continued, lest the justice, ill inclined and deluded, should use him with the utmost and uncommon rigour and violence. To divert this melancholy, and also to devise the most safe course for his delivery, George one evening took Beatrice by the arm, and willing to shew her the pleasant and delightful fields full of green corn, and that she might take the benefit of the fresh and wholesome air, when on a sudden they espied a company of rude and irregular fellows, (as they thought) break a wide gap thro' an hedge, pluck up the stakes, and without making choice of any path, tread down the corn and make towards them. This injury George's great spirit being not able to suffer, he made as much haste to meet them as he could, tho' Beatrice by many entreaties would have held him back : but the nature of so wilful a wrong prevailing above her entreaties, or the care of his own safety, he took his staff from his neck and bad them stand, and not only to give him an account, but present satisfaction and recompence for the damage they had done. Robin and his company had put off their forest green, and left their bows and arrows behind, and had only weapon'd themselves with good strong quarter-staves, according to the fashion of the country, who appearing to take the Pindar's affront in great scorn, told him, all ways were alike to them, they being travellers ; and when they could make the next way, they saw no reason they had to go about : they had done no damage, or if they had done any, the amends lay in his own hands.

"Marry, and so it doth," answer'd the Pindar, "for I have that in my hand, that shall call you to a dear reckoning; but since you seem to be men furnish'd both with limbs and spirit, if you be such, and not base and effeminate cowards, come not all upon me at once, but one by one, and then have at you, if you were twice as many more;" and the motion pleased them. Slathbatch entreated to be the first, and was the first that was laid at his master's feet. Little John would needs revenge his friend and fellow's quarrel, but dipt his finger in the same sauce. At this Beatrice encouraged, began to laugh; but Mariana, who had all this while observ'd her, did nothing but fret and vex. In the mean time, the fryar had buckled himself up for the third encounterer; but George perceiving him to be a churchman by his shaven crown, would have refused him, but the nimble fryar would needs have a bout with George, who answer'd, that since he begg'd a cudgelling at his hands, he was bound in conscience to deny the church nothing, and he would give it him surely; for the fryar was laid soon sprawling on God's earth. Still Beatrice smiled, and still Mariana fretted; and whilst Robin and George were preparing for the combat, for Robin was willing to give him liberty to breath, Mariana stept to Beatrice, and call'd her, Proud minx, and bid her now turn her laughter into tears, for she had a companion coming, who would not only revenge his friends, that were disgraced, but beat, baffle, and disarm her lubberly sweet-heart. Beatrice, who was of an high spirit, and

the more embolden'd by the present valour of her George, came up close to her, and told her again, "thou shalt find as much difference betwixt my champion and thine in manhood, as betwixt the true and natural colour in my cheeks, and thy painted and plaster'd beauty, dawb'd upon in wearing." These words were enough to begin new wars, and they were going together by the ears at the instant, and much ado had the fryar and the rest (now recovered) to keep them asunder. But the two virgins, who would have been actors themselves, were now forced to be spectators of one of the bravest combates, that (I dare say) was ever fought in Wakefield. Long it lasted, and with great difficulty they contested which should be victor: at length both, being tired and weary, (saith Robin) "Hold thy hand, noble Pindar, for I protest thou art the stoutest man that I ever yet laid my hand on." To whom the Pindar reply'd, "Recal thy words, for thou never yet laid thy hand on me." Robin reply'd, "Nor will I, noble George, but in courtesie. Know then, I am Robin Hood, this is my Mariana, and these my bold yeomen, who are come as far as the forest of Sheerwood only to prove thy valour, and to be spectators of Beatrice's beauty, both which I have found to exceed that liberal report which fame hath given out of them." At which words the Pindar embraced him, and told him, "that, next to King Richard, he was the man he most honour'd, and craved pardon of Matilda, otherwise call'd maid Mariana." He caused Beatrice to submit her self unto her on her

knees, to which she willingly assented ; but the sweet lady would by no means suffer her, but lovingly kiss'd and embraced her, who confess'd, that she could not have thought that the north country could have bred such a beauty. Much joy there was on all sides : so George invited both of them and their friends to an entertainment, wherein he shew'd himself to be as bountiful in mind, as he was famous in the strength of his body ; for their welcome and cheer was much above their expectation, as better suiting with a large manor-house, than a thatch'd cottage. Nor did Robin come altogether unprovided from Sheerwood ; for he had both money and divers heifers laden with provisions of all sorts, which follow'd him on purpose to feast and revel with the Pindar, where I leave them in all the content and felicity that may be, and proceed to King Richard upon his new welcome from his wars in Palestine.

CHAPTER XI.

How King Richard, after his Return, by reason of many Complaints made unto him, order'd those Abuses, which in his Absence had been committed by the Prince and Bishop, to be redress'd : How the Rebels were presented unto him, and his Disposing of them ; and how George A Green was reported of to the King.

RICHARD, the first of that name, for his great hardiness and magnanimity surnam'd, Cuer de Lion, king of

England, after some years spent in the holy wars, was received into the kingdom with much joy and solemnity, which was no sooner past over, but divers complaints, petition-wise, were deliver'd unto him concerning sundry oppressions made by the ambitious bishop, and insolencies committed by the prince, which, by the advice of his council, he studied how to reform. Those being brought to some reasonable effect, he then began to consider of fresh forces to be suddenly raised towards the suppression of those rebels in the north. In the middle of these considerations, there arriv'd at London young Cuddy Musgrave, with Sir Gilbert Armstrong, and presented him a prisoner to the king, telling the manner of his surprizal, and how the grand army was defeated, which was much further'd by the means of one George A Green, Pindar of the town of Wakefield, who by taking a spy of their's, and hanging him up before the gate of Sandon castle, they thereby discover'd the strength of the rebels, and learn'd how and when to take them careless and unprovided, which was the occasion of so famous and fortunate a victory. The king had scarce leisure to commend their care and diligence, but Justice Grymes likewise, before the king could make sufficient enquiry what became of the others, who were the chief of the rebellion, came and presented, as from George A Green, the Earl of Kendal, the Lord Bonvile, and Mannering; representing it with such an exact testimony of the Pindar's valour (as relating from the beginning all such remarkable things as are spoken

of him in this history) that his majesty made open protestations, that he was glad to have so good and valiant a subject, when turning towards the earl of Kendal, the king in meer derision vail'd his bonnet to him, and said withal, "My lord, you are welcome to London. I did not think at my departure you and I should have seen one another here upon these terms." At which salutation the earl, rememb'reng the former prophecy, cursed the wizzard, whose vain and idle prediction had been the occasion of his ruine and downfal. In short, the rebels were all committed to the tower, there to remain till their further trial. This done, the king enquiring further of the Pindar, and finding more and more to be spoken in his commendation, purposed to disguise himself, and, with the earl of Leicester only, who had been a co-partner with him in his wars, and Cuddy Musgrave for their guide and conductor, to travel into the north, to take a view not only of this so famous yeoman, but to listen withal how he was beloved in those parts, and his government beliked of. In this interim of time, whilst the king was preparing himself and the rest for the journey, Justice Grymes being discharged of his prisoners, and having leave to depart into the country, with great thanks from the king for his late great care, he long'd to be at home to take a better view of that supposed girl, who was left, as it were, as a pawn for his daughter. Great charge he had given, that she should be safely kept and well attended, but to trust her no further than her chamber, till he himself came to

take her to a further examination, which, by reason of his former pressing business, he had not leisure to do. We may suppose him now on his way towards the country, whither the king himself intended his private progress.

We must now look back again to Robert, earl of Huntington, and Matilda, otherwise call'd Robin Hood and maid Mariana, whom we left feasting with George A Green and his sweet Beatrice, who, besides their courteous entertainment, was willing to shew his guests all the sports and merry passages of the country.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Town of Merry Bradstead, and a Custom therein, called Trail-Staff, observed by the Shooe-Makers, otherwise call'd, The Gentle Craft. How the King, Leicester, and Cuddy past through this Town, and of their meeting with Robin Hood, and George A Green, and what further happen'd.

THERE is a town not far from Wakefield, which is called Bradstead, where the shooe-makers, by long tradition, have observ'd a custom, that no person shall walk thro' the town with his staff upon his shoulders, unless he will have a bout or two with some one or other of the gentle craft: but if he trail'd it after him, he might pass peaceably without any trouble or molestation; for there was none would say so much as, black was his eye. It so happen'd, that the king's way, with Leicester's and

Cuddy's, happen'd to lie thro' this town, who being disguised like country yeomen, and it seems not well acquainted with the custom, like honest plain travellers, (as the use was then) walk'd boldly with their staves upon their necks; which being espied by the trade of shooe-makers, three stout fellows of them, with every one a good staff in his hand stepp'd out of their shops, and beat their's from their shoulders. The king having had genteel entertainment in all other places, wonder'd at such rudeness, and gently demanded of them the reason of that violence then offer'd them. They answer'd him again, "that it was a privilege they had, which they had observed time out of mind. Their fathers had kept it, and they would leave it hereditary to their successors." They demanded of them, whether they had any such patent from the king, who answer'd again, "they did not stand upon patents, neither knew they any law for it, saving staff-ends-law; and that all their fraternity were ready to maintain it with down-right blows, and therefore bid them peremptorily to handle their staves for there was no other way to save them from a present and sower banging." The king told them, "they were peaceable men, and rather than to break their custom, or to enter into unnecessary quarrel, they would drag their staves after them," and so did.

Whilst these things were debating, came George A Green disguised, with Robin Hood and his yeomen, with every one a good bat on his neck. George having told Robin what mad merry custom the jolly shoemakers

maintain'd, and bringing him that way on purpose only for sport's sake, and to try what mettle they had in them, espies the king, Leicester and Cuddy to trail their staves after them ; at which sight being moved, " See, Robin, (saith he) three lusty, able, proper fellows, that dare not advance their staves for fear of the shoe-makers." Then asking Robin Hood, what he thought of them ? He answer'd, " That he took them to be base cowardly fellows, and that it was pity such goodly shapes should cover such timorous and degenerate spirits, very cowards." So, saith George, I'll presently correct them, and coming up close to them, he first began to upbraid them with their fear and cowardize, and afterwards concluded, that if they did not presently raise their staves, and bear them up, maugre any that durst to interpose, he himself would cudgel them more soundly, than the townsmen were able to do : Had they express'd themselves to be valiant men, they should have been excused. The king answer'd, " I was never put to so hard a choice, as to be beaten, fight or fight not ; and so desired to be excused, since they were travellers, men of peace, and altogether unacquainted with any such hard customs. His words were scarce ended, when out came a crew of shoe-makers, every man well appointed, and told them, that even they should obey their custom, bid them down with their may-poles, and withal began to strike their staves from their necks. That was the watch-word which the Pindar and his comrades look'd for, and now began the greatest combat that was ever seen in the street of Brad-

stead : for Robin and George began to clear the whole street before them, insomuch that all the town rose, masters, apprentices and journey-men : not a staff to be found, that was not used in defence of their liberty. There was nothing now thought on but havock and pall mall ; the Pindar himself seem'd to be pounded in amongst them, and many a shoe-maker was brought to his last, and many a staff was shiver'd, and made skewers : crack'd crowns went current, tho' many were found to take them against their wills : the shooe-makers themselves thought fit to give ground, who had vow'd to lose bodies and souls in the quarrel, and run to shelter themselves most shamefully. This put the king and Leicester in mind of the great conflicts betwixt them and the infidels ; for even here no christian could find favour or mercy during this battle, and the victory was still doubtful ; for what the gentle craft wanted in strength, they had in number ; yet neither party were heard to sound a retreat, till at length the Pindars's disguise falling off in the battle, he was no sooner discover'd and known, but the shoe-makers cry'd, Trail ; they flung down their staves, and cast up their caps, and bid them welcome to the merry town of Bradstead with a loud shout. No man thought more of his hurt, for the joy they had to see the Pindar ; for as the Trojans thought such more honour'd than harm'd that were hurt by the hand of Achilles, so amongst them it was held rather a dignity than a disparagement to wear any honourable scar made by the hand of the Pindar. George

having breathed himself a little, thank'd them for their lives, and presently commanded a barrel of the best and strongest ale should be brought and set in the streets, which was instantly done, and paid for. Then George entreating them, as they tender'd him, to bid his friends welcome, they then came about him like gnats: but when George had told them who they were, namely, Robin Hood and his bold yeomen, who had travell'd as far as from the forest of Sheerwood to prove what mettle was in their fraternity, this was as good as a plaster to every man's broken head; for, with a joint acclamation, they gave them a loud and hearty welcome. All this the king observing, and perceiving, the two prime men to be there present whom he had such a great desire to see, call'd to Cuddy, and bid him provide him the royal habit, which he had caused to be brought, in case of any needful occasion. In the mean time, the champions being all placed in the midst of the street, and beleaguered on all sides, the Pindar call'd for a deep wayssel-bowl, and filling it brine full, and falling down upon his kness, all the rest doing the like, he said, "Here, Robin Hood, I drink an health, to good king Richard, and thou being the best man in the company, shalt first pledge it. That done, let it go round amongst the shooe-makers:" but casting his eye aside, continued, "only I except from this health those cowardly travellers, who are unworthy to drink so brave and valiant a prince's health, who for fear durst not carry their staves upon their shoulders." Off went

the health with a great shout, and was fill'd for Robin, which he had no sooner drunk, but the king casting a princely mantle about himself, and Leicester and Cuddy plucking of their disguised habits, stept in amongst them, and said, "Nay, Robin Hood, tho' you were of late held to be the best man in the company, yet, by the Pindar's good leave, give king Richard licence to be the third man at least to drink his own health." These words, graced with his majestical habit and countenance, much astonish'd them on a sudden, but especially the shoo-makers, who made no question, than that they were all no better than food for the gallows. But at length the Pindar (whom nothing, save so great a majesty, was able to daunt) recollecting himself, most humbly submitted unto the king, desiring his grace and pardon for those vile and rude insolencies committed against his sacred majesty; whom the king as graciously pardon'd, and taking Robin Hood from his knees, saluted him by the name of Robert, Earl of Huntingdon, assuring him, upon his kingly promise, all his lands and revenues, injurious seiz'd and extorted from him by the Bishop of Ely and Prince John, should be restor'd unto him; and that his Matilda, daughter to the Earl of Fitz-Walters, should be conferr'd upon him, maugre those indirect means by which the prince his brother had insidiated her honour. This news of the king was presently spread abroad into the country. Amongst other honages, the king call'd for George A Green, and bid him kneel down, because that, for his

great services done to the state, his purpose was to honour him with the style of knighthood; but he humbly besought his majesty, that he might not exceed the title of his father, who lived and died only a poor yeoman in the country: that his service, how mean soever, did shew better in that humble and mean state in which he lived, than if he were burthen'd with the greatest titles of honour. In this interim, the shooemakers had retired themselves to consult how to appease the king's anger, who they made no question was most grievously incensed against them; when Mariana and Beatrice came and submitted themselves upon their knees, the one presenting unto his majesty a rich belt, wrought with her own hands for her Robin; the other a curious scarf, beseeching his majesty to accept of them, not according to their worth, but their tender of good will and loyal meaning towards his sacred person. The king wondering what those choice beauties should be, and being resolved, most graciously accepted of their presents, took them from their knees, and lovingly embraced them, giving them thanks for their fine presents, which he promised should be bountifully remembred. Now enters Grymes, bringing in Willy, the Pindar's boy, and first desires justice of the king against George for stealing away his daughter; and that if it were so, that the matter was so far past, that he must needs enjoy her, that it would please his majesty that she who was left in her place should be at his free disposal. The king granted both, and first having in his

princely goodness reconciled all matters betwixt old Grymes and the Pindar, as that he should firmly enjoy her, with all his estate, after his decease, he next demanded, how he would have the other virgin disposed of? who desired her for his wife: which the king had no sooner granted, but Willy discovering himself, it made a general shout and laughter unto all then present, with all which whilst they were much delighted, the old justice was as much or more displeased. The shooe-makers came, and presented the king with a country morris-dance, in which nothing was omitted that could be prepar'd on a sudden to give content, which was so well order'd, that it much pleased him, who bad them ask what in reason they could demand, who only petition'd, that the law of trial-staff, which they had held only by tradition, might still remain; and that it would please his majesty, in regard he had vail'd his staff unto them, it might be sufficient and secured to them for ever; to which his majesty graciously and willingly consented.

FINIS.

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